



KARO ECHO Newsletter

KARO ECHO

Serving the communities
of El Cerrito and
Kensington, California

Web: www.karoecho.net

Facebook:
[KARO ECHO facebook](https://www.facebook.com/KARO.ECHO)

Email: info@karoecho.net

Important Frequencies

KE Primary: 146.415 MHz
Weekly Net, Thurs. 1900

KE Secondary: 146.475 MHz

4Cs Repeater: 145.110 MHz
(TX down 600 with PL 82.5)

Monthly Meetings

In-person meetings

2nd Monday of each month
7:00 pm

(online via Zoom for now)

Arlington Park Clubhouse,
1120 Arlington Blvd,
El Cerrito, CA

The next meetings are:

Nov 8th, 2021

Dec. 13th, 2021

Meeting minutes are on
the website in the past
events page.

What's New

KARO ECHO Monthly Meeting, Nov. 8th, 1900 — **ONLINE VIA ZOOM**

The monthly KARO ECHO meeting will be held using the Zoom online meeting app, at the usual time, 1900, Monday Nov. 8th. Find the link to join in a KARO ECHO email from Howdy KE6BEE. The training portion of the meeting will focus preparation for the Fall SET and the meeting will also include reports from committees for Board nominations and Constitution update. [Full agenda link](#)

KARO ECHO SET next Saturday — Nov 13th

The fall Simulated Emergency Test (SET) will be held Saturday Nov. 13th from 10:00-12:00. If you haven't already, [please fill out the online registration form for the SET](#) to confirm your participation and help us finalize the planning. As usual there is emphasis on passing written messages (on the [modified ICS-213 form](#)), emergency power, deployment to hubs and mobile operation. There will also be a digital messaging element for some operators during this SET.

Nominations Open for KARO ECHO Board Officer Elections

Nominations are sought for President, Vice-President, Archivist/Secretary, and Treasurer. You can nominate yourself or propose someone else. If you do the latter, please ask them first if they would willingly accept the position if elected. The job descriptions are mostly self-explanatory and [can be found in the KE constitution](#). Thank you to the nomination committee (Don NI6A and Anette KJ6SWK). Send nominations to KAROECHO2021@gmail.com

Soliciting Input Regarding Update to the KARO ECHO Constitution

The Constitution update committee (Don NI6A and Martha K6ELO) have [posted a draft for review with mark-up revisions](#), by members. Please review the changes and provide any feedback at the Nov. 8 meeting (or directly to the committee). Many thanks go out to the committee for their work on this topic.

Digital Net, Wed. 11/10, 1930

Following the success of the weekly digital nets, Digital messaging using FLdigi/FLmsg formatted text messages will be passed by some operators during the SET on Nov. 13th. There will be a final digital practice net before the SET on Wed. night of this week, 1930. Other tests can be arranged on request, if desired.

LOCAL NETS**KARO ECHO Simplex Nets**

146.415 MHz (primary)

146.475 (secondary)

Voice net: Thursday, after the West Contra Costa RACES Net, but not before 1900 hours local time.

Digital net: Monday, 1900

West Contra County ACS/RACES Net

145.110 MHz repeater
(TX down 600 with PL 82.5)
Thursday: 1845 local time

Contra Costa County HF EmComm/RACES Net

3893 KHz. Thursday, 1835

American Red Cross of the Bay Area (ARCBA)

WW6BAY Repeater
443.975 MHz
TX +5 MHz, PL 100 Hz
Wednesday: 2000 local time

BOARD OFFICERS

President: Hal KK6NDF
Vice-Pres. and Emer. Coordin. Howdy KE6BEE
Treasurer: Larry KK6GIO
Secretary: Tom KN6BUY
Outreach/PR Manager: Blake KN6CMP
Webmaster: Rob K6RJM
Board members at large: Don, NI6A
Annette, KJ6SWK

What's New *(continued)***Neighborhood nets and Communication Hub Activities**

The first Wednesday of the month has a lot of radio activity in the area.

West county EmComm net out of Richmond at 11 am (starts after the Richmond siren test) FRS/GRMS simplex (on Ch.19, secondary Ch. 17), followed by a ham net on the [WA6KQB 440 repeater](#) with WA6DUR repeater as secondary (see WA6DUR freq. information below)

East Richmond Heights, ham operators check-in at 1845 on Walt's WA6DUR repeater 442.150 +5 offset and PL tone 107.2Hz.

EC4 (central El Cerrito Hills) CERT Net, Ch. 2 (462.5875), at 1845

EC9 (north El Cerrito Hills) CERT Net, Ch. 15 simplex (462.550), at 1900

East Richmond Heights, Ready-2-React Net, Ch. 7 (462.7125), at 1930

EC8 (north El Cerrito) CERT net, Ch.4 (462.6375), at 2000

Ken6 (SW Kensington) CERT net, on first Tuesdays, Ch. 6 (462.6875) at 1900

Richmond simulated EOC net, first Thursdays at 1030, on three simplex frequencies in this order: 147.450, 441.000, 223.400

Albany Radio Net, Wed. (weekly) 1900 on Ch.19 [Albany Radio groups.io](#)

[Coordination of neighborhood FRS/GMRS frequencies can be found here.](#)

License Upgrade

Congratulations to Martha K6ELO who upgraded to General class license and changed her call sign, her previous call sign was KN6ELO

Welcome New Hams

New El Cerrito licenses issued: none in past month

New Kensington licenses issued: none in past month

Action - Contribute to this Newsletter

Content for this newsletter is always welcome. We are seeking submissions for a new free classified section for selling/trading radio equipment/services. Anyone with events or other content suggestions please send them to the newsletter editor Howdy ke6bee@arrl.net

What's New *(continued)*

ARRL Learning Network Webinars

Visit the [ARRL Learning Network](#) (a members-only benefit) to register, check on upcoming webinars, and to view previously recorded sessions.

ARRL members may register for upcoming presentations and view previously recorded Learning Network webinars. ARRL-affiliated radio clubs may also use the recordings as presentations for club meetings, mentoring new and current hams, and discussing amateur radio topics.

Zonehaven Interactive Map

Lookup your [Zonehaven evacuation zone here by on this interactive map](#). If you have internet access at the time this map is layers with information about fire events, weather, evacuation orders and other information, but as a matter of preparedness, it is useful to know your zone number so that you will recognize your turn to evacuate when instructions are announced by zone numbers.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report October 2021

Larry Vanselow, KK6GIO, Treasurer

APRIL GENERAL FUND1 Beginning Balance \$1,369.17

Income: December dues payments: KM6TCB.

Total General Income: \$30.00

Donations.....\$0.00

Total General Disbursements \$0.00

Ending Balance \$1,399.17

(Portion as petty cash..... \$0.00)

Thank you to all of the donations and membership payments that support our club.

Activities

Weekly Net Control Rotation

Thanks go out to the volunteer stations who have been taking turns as Net Control Stations (NCS) each Thursday. This rotation has been working very well and everyone has been doing a great job. The regular NCS roster has 9 operators. We have one opening as an opportunity for others to fill in. Please volunteer to give it a try. [Download the new Net Script for NCS operators.](#)

Below are the current scheduled dates for each operator. The [KARO ECHO google calendar](#) also has these assignments and can be found at the bottom of the events page. Add to your electronic calendar By pressing the "+GoogleCalendar" button in the lower right.

Net control is a skill that many operators should have and regularly practice. Please contact Howdy ke6bee@arrl.net if you are interested in taking a net control assignment.

| Callsign | Name | Assigned Dates (skipped: 11/26/2020, 11/25/2021, 12/24/2020, 12/31/2020) | | | | | | |
|----------|--------------------|--|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|
| KE6BEE | Howdy Goudey | 9/17/2020 | 11/19/2020 | 2/11/2021 | 4/15/2021 | 6/17/2021 | 8/19/2021 | 10/21/2021 |
| KK6NDF | Hal Graboske | 9/24/2020 | 12/3/2020 | 2/18/2021 | 4/22/2021 | 6/24/2021 | 8/26/2021 | 10/28/2021 |
| KM6HBO | Jamuel Starkey | 10/1/2020 | 12/10/2020 | 2/25/2021 | 4/29/2021 | 7/1/2021 | 9/2/2021 | 11/4/2021 |
| KN6BUY | Tom Fattaruso | 10/8/2020 | 12/17/2020 | 3/4/2021 | 5/6/2021 | 7/8/2021 | 9/9/2021 | 11/11/2021 |
| K6RJM | Rob McNicholas | 10/15/202 | 1/7/2021 | 3/11/2021 | 5/13/2021 | 7/15/2021 | 9/16/2021 | 11/18/2021 |
| KE6HCE | Armando Picciotto | 10/22/202 | 1/14/2021 | 3/18/2021 | 5/20/2021 | 7/22/2021 | 9/23/2021 | 12/2/2021 |
| NI6A | Don Simon | 10/29/202 | 1/21/2021 | 3/25/2021 | 5/27/2021 | 7/29/2021 | 9/30/2021 | 12/9/2021 |
| KN6CMR | Susan Yeaman | 11/5/2020 | 1/28/2021 | 4/1/2021 | 6/3/2021 | 8/5/2021 | 10/7/2021 | 12/16/2021 |
| KK6ZPM | Karen Fenton-Leong | 11/12/202 | 2/4/2021 | 4/8/2021 | 6/10/2021 | 8/12/2021 | 10/14/2021 | 12/23/2021 |

Thursday Net Training Exercises

Following the net check-ins every Thursday at 1900 on 146.415, KARO ECHO usually runs a training exercise to learn and practice skills that are important for successful disaster communications.

[A list of potential training exercises](#) is posted and maintained on the training page of the website.

[A log of our check-in counts can be found here.](#) Howdy KE6BEE typically updates this document in real time during the net, so you can check it against your log during or after the net.

We averaged 21 check-ins/week in 2020 with a high of 28. So far in 2021, we are averaging 19/week with a high of 25. Thanks for your participation. Keep it up!

About KARO ECHO

KARO ECHO is the name of the Kensington Amateur Radio Operators and the El Cerrito Ham Operators mutual benefit association, an all-volunteer non-profit group of amateur radio operators providing auxiliary communications for the cities of Kensington and El Cerrito in the event of a disaster. KARO ECHO works with CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams) in Kensington and El Cerrito, but is not an official part of the CERT program.

Monthly in-person meetings of KARO ECHO are on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm, online using Zoom. The next meetings are:

- ♦ Nov. 8th, 2021
- ♦ Dec. 13th, 2021

Yearly membership dues are \$30/year for individuals, \$40/year for a family membership. Payments can be given to the Treasurer at monthly meetings or mailed to the address below. Participation is welcome independent of paid membership, but only licensed amateur radio operators who are dues paying KARO ECHO members will be allowed to vote on KARO ECHO business. Dues cover our 510c3 registration, post office box, web page, station operating manuals and more. Your input on useful expenditures to aid emergency communications is welcome.

Mail to: KARO ECHO, PO Box 2025, 6324 Fairmont Ave, El Cerrito, CA 94530-3651

Please see our website for more information: www.karoecho.net

You can contact the KARO ECHO board by email: info@karoecho.net

KARO ECHO Facebook

The [KARO ECHO Group on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1451216838315743/) has a lot of good information, more than is contained on our website. There is a whole wide world of emergency communications information at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1451216838315743/> Check it out and be inspired of what we can do to help disaster victims in our community.

Weekly Training Net

The Karo-Echo Weekly Training Net meets every Thursday evening immediately after the West Co Co County RACES/ACS Net; but not before 1900 on 146.415 MHz Simplex. Our secondary frequency is 146.475 MHz simplex. Details at <https://www.karoecho.net/events>

Newsletter Content Wanted

Any input on content you'd like to propose for inclusion in the KARO ECHO newsletter can be sent to Howdy ke6bee@arrl.net We welcome all ideas for content including announcements, events, etc.

KARO ECHO Field Day Video

Thanks to Frans KJ6IUV for taking video and editing a nice [movie of Field Day activities](#).

Outreach, Education and Licensing

Write-up of message handling exercise

There is a [writeup of a recent messaging exercise](#) on the KARO ECHO website that covers prowords and fills and other guidance for operators when passing written messages.

Local and Online Ham License Classes and Exams

COVID restrictions have changed ham license classes and exams. Many are now offered in distanced/outdoor venues or entirely online. See a [list of opportunities on the KARO ECHO website](#)

Recruiting Additional Communications Coordinators

Read the [Neighborhood District Radio Communications Coordinator \(DRCC\) plan](#) written by Don NI6A.

Training for Beginning Operators

Thanks to Jay KJ6WSS, Edward KM6UBY and Karen KK6ZPM for their May 23rd introductory radio class, with emphasis on the GMRS radio BTECH-V1. [A recording of the class and other resources are available here.](#)

Net Control Operator Training

Diane KK6RED, David KJ6AAT and Howdy KE6BEE taught an Apr 4th net control class for C8 the county wide CERT organization. There was a great reception to this class across the county and we inspired many groups to expand the scope of their net trainings. [The class recording is available here.](#)

EMCOMM related videos

See the CERT SET Youtube video link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=66DdgGLIn4c&list=PLROOaUIKdrEgSID1bQJZojW3PzfURoEY-&index=144&t=0s>

Post Camp Fire GMRS organization

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=220&v=aZiSC4sgKYw&feature=emb_logo

ELMERING

An online elmering forum can be accessed by emailing elmer@karoecho.net or browsing the associated google group. More in-depth elmering/mentoring is available by request.

In the meanwhile, please check out the plethora of useful information at <https://www.karoecho.net> website.

Encouragement to Monitor 146.415 and Explore Other Nets

During the current shelter in place, with time spent at home, it is a good opportunity to use your radio and monitor 146.415 (call out for others occasionally and make some casual contacts). There are a lot of other nets around the bay area that you can reach. Expand your radio horizons. See the [KARO ECHO Coordination page](#) for a listing of some other nets to explore. You can just listen at first, or program your radio (if a repeater is used) and try transmitting as a guest check-in to see if you can make contact.

KAROECHO.Net Website

Especially, check out the EVENTS Page (<https://www.karoecho.net/events>) and the WORKSTREAMS drop-down menu which will lead one to an extensive training page that provides online learning at your own pace. Everything from the very beginning to advanced EmComm operations is detailed. The RESOURCE page has many excellent outside links.

- ♦ This [new heading on the Events page](#) will be updated with recent additions to the website.
- ♦ If you are on Facebook, contribute to the KARO ECHO Facebook Group Page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1451216838315743/>
- ♦ If you haven't already filled out the **JOIN** form please do. Find it as a drop down menu under "Get Involved" See <https://www.karoecho.net/join>
- ♦ A [follow-through novice primer](#) has been put on the website for new hams once they have bought their radio and want to learn more.
- ♦ A [dual-band antenna primer](#) for new hams who want to graduate from the rubber-duddy world
- ♦ Note that the Tram 1480 gain dual band antenna is currently still available for \$51 (no tax and free shipping) on ebay or from Home Depot. That and an inexpensive speaker tripod is a dynamite combination for portable operation. This antenna is equivalent to the Diamond X-200a antenna which sells at HRO for \$125.00 before taxes and shipping.
- ♦ For newbies, please visit <https://www.karoecho.net/workstreams/training> and read the study materials. It is all there except for hands-on experience. Ask questions!
- ♦ Following the Thursday evening net check-in, there is often a training session and/or discussion.
- ♦ All recent KARO ECHO [Minutes will be found at our Past Events page](#) We are now including past Executive Board Minutes as well. [Newsletters are on the Documents Page](#).

If you desire to be removed from this email list, please email info@karoecho.net

Other Resources

"ALERTWildfire" camera links in our area:

[William Rust Summit cam](#)

[Wildcat Canyon cam](#)

[Vollmer Peak cam](#)

[Nichol Knob cam](#)

[View real-time data from any weather station in the state.](#)

[Albany Radio Groups.io forum](#)

[Eastbay Resilience Groups.io forum](#)

[Marina Bay Neighbors and 1st Wed West county GMRS net](#)

To make it easy for amateurs to evaluate RF exposure, ARRL provides an [RF exposure calculator](#) on its [RF Exposure page](#).

KARO ECHO Classifieds

We are soliciting classified ads from KARO ECHO members, and friends, to facilitate gifting, swapping, selling radio gear and/or offering help/services such as loans of special equipment/tools, etc. Please send any content to the newsletter editor, Howdy ke6bee@arrl.net

ARRL license plate frame

\$0.50 for full KARO ECHO members

\$1.00 for others, Proceeds go to KARO ECHO

Contact Don ni6a@arrl.net



Free Elmer support for KARO ECHO by Don NI6A. Phone, email and home consultations regarding antennas, SWR, assembly of coax and Anderson power pole connectors, lending of special test equipment, etc. Contact: elmer@karoecho.net for "free advice"

Loaner radios/antennas/meters available for trial/testing, including:

HTs, larger mobile radios, gear for digital modes and mesh nodes, SWR/power meter

Contact: Howdy ke6bee@arrl.net

Available for free: B&K Precision 2120B oscilloscope - 20MHz bandwidth, dual trace, triggered sweep. Contact: Tom, KN6BUY, at tfat@sbcglobal.net

Chirp Elmering HELP WANTED: Edward KM6UBY [posted instructions on the Marina Bay Neighbors training website](#) to use CHIRP to load Jay's KJ6WSS WCC memory program of .img or .csv files for a variety of ham radios and the GMRS V1 radio. I hope to find Elmers located throughout WCC to direct the new recruits for help programming their radios. Anyone interested in helping, please contact me directly. Karen KK6ZPM

Natalie KM6UCF donated the six 2020 issues of the bimonthly ARRL "On the Air" magazine. Includes some good articles on transmission lines, go-kits, propagation, antennas, etc. Also, four books, including the ARRL Operating Manual which is a good reference.

Free to any member, modest donations to KARO-ECHO welcomed. Contact: Don ni6a@arrl.net

Some items shown may have been taken.

